

15 December 1986

## Organization and Mission - Field

### AIR FORCE SPACE TECHNOLOGY CENTER (AFSTC)

This regulation prescribes the mission for the Air Force Space Technology Center.

**1. Authoritative Sources for Contents.** AFRs 23-8, 80-3, 80-4, and AFSCR 23-9.

**2. Mission.** AFSTC is the principal AFSC organization charged with planning and managing the USAF research and development programs for space systems technology, advanced nonconventional weapons and weapons effects, rocket propulsion and geophysics. It is responsible for integrating space technology and transitioning this technology to systems. AFSTC manages selected space technology demonstration projects, coordinates space technology thrusts at non-AFSTC laboratories, and provides Air Force technical support for planning, developing and operating aerospace systems and selected equipment.

**3. Organization.** The following units are directly subordinate to AFSTC:

- a. Air Force Weapons Laboratory (AFWL) Kirtland AFB NM.
- b. Air Force Geophysics Laboratory (AFGL) Hanscom AFB MA.
- c. Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory (AFRPL) Edwards AFB CA.

**4. Responsibilities.** AFSTC is directly responsible to SD for mission accomplishment. Management responsibility for Technology Base programs and laboratory resources will

be according to established USAF and AFSC policies. Specifically, AFSTC:

a. Manages activities of AFWL, AFRPL, and AFGL. (Ref: AFSTCR 23-1, 23-2, 23-3.)

b. Provides the principal Air Force interface with scientific, industrial, educational, and Government agencies, and acts as AFSC focal point in the areas of AFSTC technical capability. Maintains cognizance of related technical efforts being conducted and adjusts AFSTC and laboratory programs and system support accordingly. Advises HQ SD and HQ AFSC when unresolved duplicative technical efforts exist.

c. Executes assigned projects for and works closely with other AFSC organizations, Air Force major commands, Army, Navy, DARPA, SDIO, NASA, DOE, DNA, and other Government agencies.

d. Maintains a comprehensive knowledge of pertinent foreign research and development activities. Analyzes, evaluates, and exploits pertinent foreign technological disciplines for satisfying Air Force requirements and developing new capabilities.

e. Establishes and maintains a comprehensive and competent in-house RDT&E capability in assigned research and development and planning programs. Integrates research and development programs in space technology at Air Force laboratories for use by AFSC product divisions.

f. Provides technical expertise and consultative services to SD, other AFSC organizations and higher echelons for policy formulations, planning, and technology forecasting.

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g. Develops the Military Space Systems Technology Plan (MSSTP) as a systematic method for performing long range space technology program planning. The MSSTP serves as a communications tool between AFSTC, SD, HQ AFSC, the Air Force laboratories, and other agencies that plan, develop, and use space systems and the related technology base.

h. Identifies the technology needed to meet the needs of future military space and launch systems. Develops comprehensive plans in conjunction with all Air Force laboratories and AFSC product divisions to ensure these technologies will be available when needed.

i. Manages the SD program for evaluating technical quality of contractor Independent Research and Development (IR&D) programs.

j. Performs specialized technical services in evaluating unsolicited proposals and patent applications and in performing special studies and analyses.

k. Performs scientific integration of technology products to support launch activities. Develops and tests experimental space subsystems. Develops and conducts experiments for advanced nonconventional weapons and weapon effects, rocket propulsion systems and geophysics research to acquire design data and demonstrate new and integrated technology.

1. Utilizes the Space Test Program to test assigned technologies in space.

m. Provides Research and Development on space test range (STR) instrumentation systems when requirements are identified by the STR for which there is no known technological solution. Also provides other in scope support to the STR when assigned by Technology Need from AFSC.

#### 5. Relationship to Other Units or Agencies:

a. **Communications.** AFSTC is authorized to communicate directly with other major commands, military departments, and Government, industrial, and educational agencies on nonpolicy and nonpositional matters related to technical aspects of the assigned mission. AFSTC may communicate directly with HQ AFSC/DL on technology issues concerning Technology Base programs. All other communications will be directed to or through HQ SD.

b. **AFR 11-4 Support.** As a tenant, AFSTC uses AFR 11-4 procedures to obtain support services from Kirtland AFB, except for those areas covered by approved waivers. AFSTC units not located on Kirtland AFB will receive support from appropriate host base organizations as negotiated under AFR 11-4 procedures.

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#### SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Adds SDIO to list of organizations (para 4c), and adds para 4m.